

The BoarsTale . . .Online

A Publication of Headquarters, Georgia Air National Guard, Dobbins ARB, GA October 2000

Commanders' Column

Colonel Scott Hammond, Director of Operations

For all of us who served in the Air Guard during the 1990's, we have shared in two stunning successes. During the 1991 Persian Gulf War, allied air forces dominated the entire theater of operations, achieving air superiority in the first hours of the war. Near the end of the decade, NATO completely controlled the skies of Kosovo, so much so that not one allied aviator's life was lost. These two conflicts serve as bookends for a remarkable 10 year span following the fall of the Iron Curtain and breakup of the Soviet Union. During these two wars, the U.S. Air National Guard played an enormous part.



I am very proud of the performance of this nation's military during the 1990's, but I continue to have nagging thoughts about the trends we've all witnessed. Overseas peacekeeping commitments have grown, but our active duty forces have dwindled by 25 percent. Current defense spending (adjusted for inflation) has shrunk by roughly a third since the mid-1980's, even as many of our aging weapon systems now need to be replaced. Reserve and National Guard forces, historically viewed as last ditch solutions to homeland defense, are now integral parts of worldwide power projection and peacekeeping efforts. All this has taken place in an era of unmatched prosperity, making it extremely difficult for U.S. naval, land, and air forces to recruit and retain qualified personnel.

My biggest concern throughout this drawdown has been that our nation's leaders have inadequately articulated exactly what we expect from today's armed forces, both active duty and reserve. Force structure has been shaped by decades of preparation to fight two major theater wars simultaneously, as we were required to do in World War II. However, this past decade's defense budget cutbacks have created an undesirable environment; we are now paying lip service to a capability we are ill-equipped and under-staffed to provide.

There is, however, a glimmer of light at the end of this long tunnel we've all been staring down. Our concerns are now being heard at the highest levels. A

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Weekend UTA Schedule

Saturday

0645 Formation
0700 Joint Staff Meeting (Officers & Enlisted)
1100 Lunch
1530 Release

Sunday

0645 Formation
0700 Chapel Service
0800 Promotion Boards Convene
1100 Lunch
1400 Retirement ceremonies (Col Hill & CMSgt Fluellen)
1530 Release

ANG News From the Field:

A Georgia Army National Guard CH-47 Chinook helicopter ferried a vintage F-4 jet aircraft from Dobbins Air Reserve Base to its new home at Robins Air Force Base. The F-4 was flown by the 116 FW in the early '90s.

With the move of this aircraft, the 116th Bomb Wing now at Robins AFB has five former aircraft which will be refurbished and placed on display at the in new ANG entrance soon to be completed at Robins.



Base Closing to the "Number One Item" in January

Senator John Warner, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee who has consistently opposed the Pentagon's increasingly desperate pleas to close more military bases has decided that he would

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Commander's Column....continued

recent *USA Today* article proclaimed the biggest challenge for the next Commander in Chief will be to redefine the threat, and then reshape the military to meet that threat. Marine Corps Commandant Charles Krulak perhaps says it best: "The first issue is 'readiness' for what?" Concurrent with this effort to clarify the evolving roles and missions of These are highly encouraging signs, because they'll help bring expectations and capability back into line. And when this happens, it will be the cornerstone for improved morale among the three services, active and reserve. Those of us who proudly wear the uniform ask only two things: that we be told what is expected of us, and given the tools to accomplish that task. Thanks for hanging in there through some pretty lean times.

Let me leave you with one last thought. Some politicians claim, almost apologetically, that this country's military has no peer in the world today. I wouldn't have it any other way, for I learned a long time ago when I first checked out in fighters that if you're in a fair fight, you didn't plan it properly. I hope you agree!

HQ Events Paid from Unit Funds

The annual Family Day picnic, the Christmas Party, refreshments at retirement ceremonies are a few of the many HQ events paid for from Unit Funds. We hope you will consider participating when we ask for donations this weekend.



ANG News from the Field:

recommend two more rounds of base closures after the next administration takes over.

Warner reverses course after the Joint Chiefs of Staff warned during a September 27 hearing that tight budgets are forcing the services to mortgage their futures for readiness now. Defense officials say excess bases are sapping billions of dollars that could be spent on modernization. They estimate that DOD will save \$3 billion a year – 1 percent of the defense budget- by closing installations no longer needed.

New URL for HQ Web Site

A new URL address has been established for the HQ GA ANG website. The new address uses the Robins AFB server which provides greater reliability and permits faster updates. The new website address is <http://www.gahq.ang.af.mil>. I hope that HQ personnel will regularly check this site for current news and information. Also on the site you will find current bios on HQ senior leadership, a page of recent photographs, past issues of the BoarsTale monthly publication, recruiting information, significant links to other GA ANG units as well as links to AF publications. This is the HQ Website and is designed for you. Please let me hear feedback on this page. I welcome your input, suggestions or criticism that may help make this an often read website for HQ Guardsmen.

TAGS Discuss Guard History

Six former Adjutant Generals and Assistant Adjutants General of Georgia highlighted the 9th Annual Conference of the Historical Society of the Georgia National Guard held on Saturday, October 14, 2000 in Forsyth, Georgia.



The conference marks the first time five former TAGs and ATAGs have gathered to discuss the events that defined their tenure in office. The six retired generals reviewed the challenges, issues, and situations each faced over the past 50 years in command of the 13,000-member Georgia Department of Defense that includes state employees, Army and Air National Guardsmen, and the State Defense Force.

The unique gathering consisted of Maj. Gen. (Ret.) William P. Bland (1991-1999); Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Joseph W. Griffin, (1983-1990); Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Alpha A. Fowler (1947-1948); Brig. Gen. (Ret.) William K. McDaniel (1987-1990); and Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Ben L. Patterson (Asst. Adjutant General, Air 1975-1977, 1983-1990). Facilitating the daylong forum was Col. (Ret.) James R. Wooten, editorial page editor of the *Atlanta*

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Journal.

Maj. Gen. David B. Poythress opened the conference held in the Council Chambers of the Forsyth City Hall.

Forsyth Mayor, and former Georgia Army National Guard Chief of Staff, Paul Jossey and the City of Forsyth hosted the event.

OCTOBER PROMOTION BOARDS

Enlisted Promotion Board members

President - Colonel Burson

CMSgt Hogan (165th)

CMSgt Parker (116th)

CMSgt Mobley (HQ's)

CMSgt Waters (224th)

Officer Promotion Board members

Colonel Hammond - President

LtCol Pugh - member

Maj Specht - member

Capt Campbell - Recorder

Specific Rules Govern Political Involvement

We are in the midst of a political campaign season and regardless of your preferences for candidates there are a few "Dos and Don'ts" under the federal Hatch Act for which each person in uniform should be aware. The Hatch Act restricts the political activities of DoD civilian employees, and certain state and local agencies. Members of the armed forces are also subject to Hatch Act provisions.

Allowable activities include running for nonpartisan public office; registering and voting as one chooses; assisting in voter registration drives; attending political fundraisers, rallies and meetings; and holding office in political clubs or parties.

As examples of prohibitions, federal employees generally may not solicit or receive political contributions, and they may not engage in political activity while on duty, in a government office or while wearing an official uniform.

Happy Birthday!

Lt Col Lou Burson 24 Oct

MSgt Oliver Gills 10 Oct

MSgt Greg Gray 28 Oct

Col Joe Morgan 28 Oct

MSgt Chuck Riggs 2 Oct



Msgt Clint Smith

A Good Witness in Troubled Times

The story of the Titanic, the ill-fated luxury cruise liner, has been well documented. The recent movie has stirred many people to have more than a passing interest. There are many individual stories that could be told about that tragic evening.

John Harper was a Scottish minister who was traveling on the Titanic. His destination was the Moody Church in Chicago. He was to preach there for three months. The ship struck an iceberg and began to sink. Some of the passengers were able to reach lifeboats. But the space was very, very limited on the boats.

John Harper was hurled into the sea amidst the chaos. As other people desperately tried to survive in the chilled waters, Harper swam to them.

The minister asked people in the water if they knew Jesus. Eventually, Harper approached a passenger clinging to a jagged piece of wood. Harper pleaded for the man to trust Christ. The minister was completely exhausted at this point. As he succumbed to the conditions and went under the water to his death, Harper said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

A few years later at a meeting of survivors of the Titanic, the final man that encountered John Harper told the group that he had been saved twice that night. First, he had accepted Christ as his personal Savior because of Harper's efforts. And, of course, he had been rescued from the deep Atlantic seas.

The minister spent the final minutes of his life as a good witness in troubled times. Hopefully, none of us will ever be in a similar situation. But in difficult circumstances of any degree, our witness is very important. The way we behave in adversity will make an impression on others. More importantly, our sincerity and perseverance in telling other about the Good News of the Gospel will make an eternal difference in the lives of people everywhere.

Read: Romans 10: 1-15

CHAPEL SERVICE: Sunday, 22 October, at 0700 hours in the base Chapel

Oglethorpe Award Recognition

The Georgia Department of Defense has earned recognition as being an organization striving to achieve “excellence in all we do,” the third element of our core values. Our organization has been selected to receive a site visit for the Georgia Oglethorpe Award. Award examiners use the same criteria as the national Malcolm Baldrige Award to recognize organizational performance.

A team of more than 35 Georgia DoD members (Army, Air and civilian) worked for nearly 18 months putting together the DoD application, which was submitted in June.

“The Oglethorpe process is highly respected in both the private and public sectors across the state and region. Our selection is a great honor to the men and women of the Georgia Department of Defense,” said Col. Robert T. Baird III, Project Manager for the Oglethorpe Program. “It validates our business practices as being competitive with those of the better applicants in the state.”

The site team is scheduled to visit our facilities during the week of October 30-November 3. A detailed schedule is being prepared that will include both formal briefings and informal visits to units and work areas.



“The site visit is open to every unit and facility within the Georgia DoD structure,” said Maj. Larry Deaton, of The Office of Organizational Development, who is coordinating the visit. “The team could appear at any location and talk to soldiers, airmen or employees anytime during this week.”

“We are not asking anyone to do anything special, but to be truthful and professional,” he added. “When asked a question, do your best to answer it and to learn from the visit.”

To help leaders prepare for the visit, copies of the Georgia Department of Defense 55-page application has been distributed by email. Deaton can also provide hard-copy versions of the application.

The Oglethorpe Award process evaluates organizations in six key areas: Leadership, Strategic Planning, Customer Focus, Information and Analysis, Human Resource Focus and Process Management. A seventh category, Business Results, links the other six areas and shows how organizations measure the effectiveness of their key processes.

The award Board of Examiners accepts applications from business and industry as well as non-profit, healthcare, educational and government organizations. Fort Benning earned the Oglethorpe Award in 1998 and was the first winner in the government category. Delta Technical Operations won last year. This is the Georgia DoD’s first entry.

“Most first-time applicants do not even receive a site visit, so we should be justly proud of what we’ve accomplished so far,” said Baird. “This is a highly demanding organizational self-assessment program. And while we obviously want to win the Oglethorpe Award, the real value to us is the process of looking at our organization to define our measures and our processes, to habitually look inward to safeguard the wellbeing of our people, and to work daily to live our core values of *integrity first, service before self, and excellence in all we do*. The endgame must always be to better deliver readiness enhancing efficiencies and services to the field.”